



Date: August 8, 2017

To: The Honorable Ron Menor, Chair  
The Honorable Ikaika Anderson, Vice Chair  
Members of the City Council, City and County of Honolulu

From: Trish La Chica, Policy and Advocacy Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Re: **Strong Support for Bill 70**

Hrg: August 9, 2017 at 10:00am at Council Meeting Room

---

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 70**, which would prohibit smoking and vaping in a motor vehicle when a minor is present.

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i (Coalition) is a program of the Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) that is dedicated to reducing tobacco use through education, policy, and advocacy. With over two decades of history in Hawai'i, the Coalition has led several campaigns on enacting smoke-free environments, including being the first state in the nation to prohibit the sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices to purchasers under 21 years of age.

**There is strong support in Oahu for smoke-free cars when minors are present<sup>1</sup>.**

An independent poll conducted by Ward Research Inc. for the Coalition, in November 2016 finds that 89% of Oahu residents support this law. Support statewide is 79% among registered Hawai'i voters while support for this law across counties is high: 83% of Kauai country residents, 83% of Hawaii county residents, and 83% for Maui residents. The Coalition also collected more than 2,100 petitions from students and parents in support of this issue.

**Smoke-free cars, like any public health law, exist to protect the health and safety of our children.**

The goal of the smoke-free cars law is to protect our most vulnerable and to educate parents and other adults on the health hazards of secondhand smoke exposure and improve decision making about smoking in ways that harm other people. Similar to other smoke-free laws, the Coalition is able and willing to partner with the City Council, the Department of Health, and the Honolulu Police Department to assist with public education and implementation of this law.

**Smoke-free car legislation has been successful for the past ten years.**

Since 2006, eight states in the U.S. as well as several countries such as France, South Africa, and the entire United Kingdom have passed laws to prohibit smoking when children and young people are

present. Data from 2008-2014 on the smoke-free cars law in Wales reported a 50% decline in the percentage of children exposed to smoke in their family vehicle since the law passed<sup>ii</sup>.

**Smoking in cars is toxic as secondhand smoke in cars can be 10 times more toxic, even when a window is down<sup>iii</sup>.**

The level of air pollution in a car caused by smoke from a cigarette is so severe that breathing it is dangerous for anyone, but especially for children. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke – it has more than 7,000 chemicals, at least 70 of which are known to cause cancer. Secondhand smoke (SHS) particles deposit deep in your lungs, and after just half a cigarette has been smoked in a car, the quality of the air can reach levels 10 times over what the United States Environmental Protection Agency considers hazardous. Exposure to secondhand smoke for as little as 10 seconds can stimulate asthmatic symptoms in children<sup>iv</sup>. Further, smoking emits fifty times more fine particles into a car than those emitted per-mile by a car's tailpipe<sup>v vi</sup>.

Hawai'i has been a leader, protecting the public and its visitors from the dangers of secondhand smoke, and now, the State Legislature has the opportunity to protect its children and young people from the harmful impacts of SHS in vehicles. In 2010, Hawai'i County passed legislation that prohibits smoking in vehicles when a minor under the age of 18 is present and in 2016 Kauai passed their smoke-free cars legislation.



*March 20, 2017. More than 80 youth advocates from Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, Molokai, and Kauai join legislators for a shout out to #BreatheAloha, the youth smoke-free cars campaign  
Videos and other media: <https://hiphi.org/kbd2017>*

Thank you and we respectfully ask the Council to advance Bill 70 to committee.

Mahalo,



Trish La Chica  
Policy and Advocacy Director

---

<sup>i</sup> This study by War Research, Inc. summarizes findings from a phone survey among n=806 Hawaii registered voters, conducted between October 17 and November 8, 2015.

<sup>ii</sup> More GF, Moore L, Littlecott HJ, Ahmed N, Lewis S, Sully G, Jones E, Holliday J. (2015) Prevalence of smoking restrictions and child exposure to secondhand smoke in cares and homes: a repeated cross-sectional survey of children aged 10-11 years in Wales. *BMJ Open*. <http://orca.cf.ac.uk/72806/1/Moore%20et%20al.%202015.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> Ott, W. R., Klepeis, N. E., Switzer P. (2007) Air Change Rates of Motor Vehicles and In-Vehicle Pollutant Concentrations from Secondhand Smoke. *Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology*. doi:10.1038/sj.jes.7500601. <http://www.tobaccosmoke.org/OKS07>

<sup>iv</sup> Rees V, Connolly G. Measuring air quality to protect children from secondhand smoke in cars. *Am J Prev Med* 2006; 31(5):363-8.

<sup>v</sup> Maricq, M. M., Podsiadlik, D. H., Chase, R. E. (1999) "Examination of the Size-Resolved and Transient Nature of Motor Vehicle Particle Emissions." *Environmental Science and Technology*, 33 (110): 1618-1626. <http://pubs.acs.org/cgi-bin/abstract.cgi/esthag/1999/33/i10/abs/es9808806.html>.

<sup>vi</sup> Nazaroff WW and Klepeis NE (2003) "Environmental Tobacco Smoke Particles," In: *Indoor Environment: Airborne Particles and Settled Dust*, edited by Lidia Morawska and Tunga Salthammer, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, October 2003.